

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 49 remain in this application. The claim 46 has been amended to correct an obvious clerical error.

The title has been amended to reflect the fact that the claims are directed to an article and not to a method of making.

Near the top of page 2 of the Office Action mailed December 13, 2005, the Examiner has taken the position that the claims are directed to patentably distinct species defined by Figures 1 to 4, respectively, and has required Applicants to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits.

Claims 1 to 11, 19 to 22 and 24 to 33 read on the surface covering shown in Figures 3 and 4. The difference between the species shown in Figures 3 and 4 is that the web 28 shown in both figures is required to include a foam layer 38 and a substrate 36 in Figure 4. Neither the foam layer nor substrate is specifically set forth in the claims.

Claims 12 to 18 and 23 read on the surface covering shown in Figure 2. The difference between the species shown in Figure 2 and the species shown in Figures 3 and 4 is the print layer 18 shown in Figures 3 and 4. Claims 19 to 22, which require the print layer, depend directly or indirectly on claim 12. Therefore, claim 12 is generic to the species shown in Figures 3 and 4, i.e. claims 1 to 11, 19 to 22 and 24 to 33.

Claims 34 to 49 read on the species shown in Figure 1. Figure 1 is directed to a freestanding film. The freestanding film is adhered to a web 28 from the surface covering shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Appl. Ser. No. 10/783,076
Amdmt & Response Dated January 11, 2006
Appl. Filed February 20, 2004

Attorney for Applicants elects the invention shown in Figure 1, claims 34 to 49,
without traverse.

Respectfully submitted,

1/11/06
Date

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